

**June 2011**

**Embassy of Japan in Rwanda**

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***1 "Open Reconstruction" in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Working with Heart-Warming Support Towards a Safe and Secure Japan that Coexists in Harmony with the World***

"Thank You Again"

Please accept once again our heartfelt gratitude for your country's generous assistance after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Government of Japan continues to work with the residents of the affected region and the people of Japan, expending all efforts to overcome the present difficulties and secure safety for the disaster victims, including foreigners, and an early recovery for the region.

Re-establishing a Safe and Secure Japan

Japan is already on a steady, step-by-step path towards recovering safety in relation to the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Except in areas surrounding the power station, radiation levels are now at normal levels in Tokyo and elsewhere, posing no health hazards. This concurs with the Preliminary Summary of the report issued on June 1 by the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) fact-finding mission that was sent to Japan from May 24 to June 2. The preliminary summary states: "To date, no health effects have been reported in any person as a result of radiation exposure from the nuclear accident." Mobilizing knowledge and technology from around the world, work is underway to bring the situation under control. We are gradually regaining a safe and secure Japan.

At the G8 Summit in Deauville in May, Prime Minister Naoto Kan stated that it is Japan's responsibility to share the experiences and lessons learned from the accident in order to realize the highest levels of nuclear safety worldwide. On June 7, Japan issued the Report of the Japanese Government to the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. A thorough investigation of the accident is now underway with the launch of the Investigation Committee on the accidents. Japan will continue to share the lessons learned from the accident with the international community with maximum transparency and make a leading contribution to international discussions on nuclear

safety.

#### Pursuing "Open Reconstruction" through Three Aspects of Symbiosis

We will pursue a future-oriented and "open reconstruction" program, hand in hand with the international community, so that we will be able to reciprocate the goodwill that has been extended to us. Pictures of Japanese people helping each other and trying hard to recover their lives have drawn the attention of the world. This can be interpreted as an expression of the underlying spirit of symbiosis, or interaction based on mutual dependence and mutual benefit, which the Japanese have long embraced. People evolve through competition but they are able to sustain themselves through symbiosis. Symbiosis may be the most crucial principle for the coming generation. One aspect of symbiosis is "coexistence among people." The philosophy of human security, of which Japan is a leading advocate in the international community, is a reflection of the spirit of symbiosis among people which Japanese people have fostered. The second aspect of symbiosis is "coexistence among nations." Japan will help foster harmonious coexistence among nations by promoting cooperation with the international community in the areas of diplomacy, security, and the economy. This is part of the mission of Japan's diplomacy, which has contributed to the achievement of Japan's peace and prosperity today through international cooperation. Finally, in overcoming natural disasters, such as has occurred on March 11, "symbiosis between people and nature" is vital. Absorbing the lessons of the earthquake and the nuclear accident, Japan intends to lead international discussions on improving nuclear safety and environmental policy as well as on responding to large-scale natural disasters.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize that Japan remains "open for business and travel." We have already received tremendous assistance from around the world. Were the international community to support us even more, however, we would be grateful if it would understand that the most helpful support for us would be to promote business with Japan and encourage visiting Japan for pleasure or study just as before, or more so.

## ***2 The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Follow-up Meeting Sets Out a Mid- to Long-term Vision towards the Achievement of the MDGs***

On June 2-3, Japan co-hosted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives of countries, international organizations, and civil society from around

the world, including ministers from 24 countries and heads of seven international organizations. Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto attended the opening ceremony to deliver the welcome remarks. State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Yutaka Banno chaired plenary meetings. During the two-day meeting, lively discussions took place among the participants on genuinely effective approaches for the international community to achieve the MDGs. Japan introduced the following development assistance models to the specialized international discussions: the EMBRACE model for development in the area of maternal, newborn and child health and the School-for-All model for development in the area of basic education, which were introduced at the High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the MDGs. Japan reaffirmed its resolve to faithfully implement its international commitments to achieve the MDGs, not least among them the "Kan Commitment." Japan is determined to continue to lead the international discussions on global challenges, including the MDGs, in cooperation with relevant countries and organizations based on the concepts of human security and equity that Japan advocates.

The participants highly commended Japan's unwavering commitment to international cooperation and hosting this meeting at this challenging time, shortly after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The meeting also provided an opportunity to begin discussion on addressing global challenges beyond 2015, the deadline for the MDGs. All these discussions culminated in the Chair's Statement, representing a meaningful contribution to the achievement of the MDGs as well as to continued efforts beyond 2015.

### ***3 G8 Deauville Summit: Leaders Confirm Solidarity with Japan, and Discuss Pressing International Issues Including Nuclear Safety and Situations in the Middle East and North Africa***

The 2011 G8 Summit was held on May 26 and 27 in Deauville, France, chaired by President Sarkozy of the French Republic, where Prime Minister Naoto Kan represented Japan. The Summit touched upon issues such as solidarity with Japan, nuclear safety, climate change, the Internet, development, and peace and security; it issued three declarations: the G8 Declaration, the Declaration of the G8 on the Arab Spring, and the G8/Africa Joint Declaration, which was the first of its kind.

#### Solidarity with Japan

Prime Minister Kan expressed his deep gratitude for the assistance and friendship extended by the international community, and explained Japan's determination to bring the accident under control and to achieve reconstruction. He also expressed that Japan would take up four challenges to forge a future path for energy, adding "renewable

energy” and “energy-efficiency” as two new pillars to the pillars to date of “nuclear power” and “fossil fuels”. Other G8 leaders renewed their heartfelt sympathy to and solidarity with Japan, paying tribute to the courage and dignity shown by Japanese people amid the difficult situation.

#### Japan’s Contribution to Primary Discussions

##### (1) Nuclear Safety

Prime Minister Kan made a five-point proposal to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety worldwide: (a) strengthening of the Safety Standards of the IAEA and promotion of their utilization, (b) expansion of the IAEA’s Operational Safety Review Mission, (c) enhancement of an international support system in times of accidents, (d) strengthening of cooperation among national safety authorities, and (e) ratification of nuclear safety-related conventions. He also announced an initiative to host an international meeting in Japan in the latter half of 2012 in cooperation with the IAEA, taking into account the results of a review of the accident at TEPCO’s Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Leaders expressed support for the initiative, and acknowledged that, although each country may have its own approach to the use of nuclear energy, joint efforts are necessary to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety.

##### (2) Middle East and North Africa

The G8 leaders welcomed the historic changes taking place in the Middle East and North Africa, affirming the G8’s collective support for the efforts. On the second day of the Summit, the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia, both in the process of political transition, were invited to the Summit. The leaders expressed their intention to launch the Deauville Partnership to support the changes and to extend short and medium-long-term assistance together with the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks. Prime Minister Kan, referring to Japan’s contribution to democratization, stability and growth in Southeast Asia, expressed Japan’s intention to contribute to assistance for the region, focusing on (a) fair political process and government, (b) human resource development, and (c) job creation and fostering of industries.

##### (3) Political Issues

Regarding North Korea, Prime Minister Kan emphasized that North Korea’s uranium enrichment activities constitute a clear violation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and that they pose a major challenge to the efforts of the international community to demand North Korea’s dismantlement of its nuclear programs. He stated the Security Council should issue a strong message about the problem. Other G8 leaders expressed views sharing Japan’s concern. Prime Minister Kan also raised Japan’s concern about the human rights situation in North Korea, including the abduction issue. The concern was included in the

G8 Summit Declaration.

(4) Dialogue with Africa

The G8 leaders, convinced that it is important to further strengthen partnership between the G8 and Africa, invited the leaders of African countries and exchanged views on challenges facing the region. They shared the recognition that it is important to encourage not only aid but also private-sector investment and trade to achieve self-sustained growth in Africa. Prime Minister Kan expressed Japan's resolve to continue to implement its comprehensive pledges made at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), and stated that in an effort to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Japan would host a follow-up meeting in Tokyo in June 2011. He also pointed out that, building on Japan's experience with the ASEAN countries, the key to economic growth lies in the enhancement of intra-regional trade and the improvement of connectivity through developing wide-area infrastructure.

***4 The Third TICAD Ministerial Follow-Up Meeting: Japan Announces Its Determination to Implement Its Commitment to Assist Africa, Overcoming the Earthquake Disaster***

On May 1-2, the Third TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting took place in Dakar, Republic of Senegal and was attended by some 500 participants from 68 countries around the world (including 47 in Africa), 42 international and regional organizations, NGOs and the private sector. Japan was represented by Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Chiaki Takahashi, who co-chaired the meeting with H.E. Mr. Madické Niang, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, the host country.

Statements from Japan

At the meeting, Japan made the following statements among others:

(1) The Great East Japan Earthquake

Japan expressed its appreciation for the support and solidarity rendered by African countries and the international community as a whole after the Great East Japan Earthquake. To share with Africa its experiences and lessons learned in tackling this disaster, Japan made a proposal to convene a seminar in Japan during the course of this year, on the theme of "Creating Resilient Economies and Societies" to withstand natural disasters.

(2) TICAD IV Follow-Up

The meeting confirmed that the Yokohama Action Plan, issued at TICAD IV in 2008, has been steadily implemented. Japan stated that it would maintain its intention to

continue taking an active role in enhancing peace and stability in the international community, and expressed its unwavering determination to faithfully implement the TICAD IV pledges, overcoming the recent earthquake disaster.

#### (3) Political Issues in Africa

Japan stated its position on the recent situations in Sudan, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, and North African countries. Japan then announced that through the TICAD process it would continue to tackle various challenges such as poverty, unemployment, security and governance problems that are seen as underlying factors in these situations.

#### (4) Climate Change

Japan called for close cooperation with African countries towards COP17, to be held in South Africa, later this year. It also proposed to formulate, together with the African countries, a "Low-Carbon Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy in Africa", which will provide a medium- and long-term vision to address climate change issues in Africa.

#### Evaluation

The participating countries at the meeting extended their renewed support and solidarity for Japan as it works towards recovery and reconstruction from the disaster. They also highly appreciated Japan's expression of determination to continue faithful implementation of its comprehensive pledges made at TICAD IV. In addition, the participating countries welcomed Japan's proposal to convene a disaster risk management seminar.

Furthermore, the participating countries highly commended the assistance that Japan has been extending to Africa in the area of climate change. These countries positively evaluated Japan's proposal to formulate, together with African countries, a medium- and long-term strategy aimed at promoting sustainable and low-carbon growth in Africa.

The Communiqué issued at the end of the meeting as the outcome document reflects the perspectives of both the African countries and their development partners and carries an important message for major international meetings such as the G8, G20, the MDGs Follow-Up Meeting and COP17, slated for this year.

#### ***For more information on Japan***

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Japan Echo Web <http://www.japanechoweb.jp/>

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